

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0020], [0021], [0022], and [0025] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0020] The binder used in the forehearth color concentrates according to the present invention can be any substance that is compatible with the base glass being colored and does not interfere with dispersion of the glass component. The binder helps hold the non-smelted agglomerated interspersions of glass frit(s) and binder particles together until they are added to the base glass in the forehearth. Once the forehearth color concentrates have been added to the base glass being colored, the binder locally and temporarily reduces the fusion temperature between the glass component and the base glass for a time sufficient to permit a rapid and thorough ~~dispersement~~ dispersion of the glass frit(s) through the base glass. The binder also disperses throughout the base glass and becomes diluted to the point that it does not significantly alter the base glass's basic characteristics.

[0021] Preferred binders for use in the invention comprise one or more materials selected from the group consisting of alkali borates, boric acid, alkali phosphates, orthophosphoric acid, alkali silicates, ~~fluosilic~~ fluorosilicic acid, alkali fluorides, alkali salts, alkali hydroxides and mixtures. Suitable alkali cations include the alkali metals such as sodium, potassium and lithium and the alkaline earth metals such as calcium, magnesium and barium.

[0022] Suitable alkali borates that can be employed as binders in the invention include borax, potassium pentaborate, potassium metaborate, potassium tetraborate, and calcium borate. Among the alkali phosphates which can be employed are hemisodium phosphate, monosodium phosphate, disodium phosphate, trisodium phosphate, monopotassium phosphate, dipotassium phosphate, tripotassium phosphate, monoammonium phosphate, diammonium phosphate, monocalcium phosphate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, sodium acid pyrophosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, sodium

tripolyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, calcium tripolyphosphate, potassium metaphosphate, sodium trimetaphosphate, sodium monofluorophosphate, calcium monofluorophosphate and sodium tetrametaphosphate. Suitable alkali silicates include sodium silicate, potassium silicate, sodium ~~fluosilicate~~ fluorosilicate and calcium ~~fluosilicate~~ fluorosilicate. Suitable alkali fluorides include sodium aluminum fluoride, calcium fluoride, lithium fluoride, anhydrous potassium fluoride, potassium fluoride dihydrate, potassium bifluoride and sodium fluoride. Suitable alkali salts include sodium carbonate and barium carbonate. Suitable alkali hydroxides include sodium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

[0025] Auxiliary materials, such as inorganic pigments and metals, can also be present in the forehearth color concentrates according to the invention in amounts up to about 5% by weight, and more preferably in amounts less than about 3% by weight. Auxiliary materials commonly employed in the coloring of base glasses include color inducing metal oxides (e.g., oxides of chromium, copper, iron, cobalt, manganese, vanadium, nickel) and metals such as selenium, which should not be added in the form of its oxide.